



Central Coast Marine Plan Implementation Advisory Committee (MPIAC)

Thursday, June 25, 2020
1-4pm
Online Meeting

Meeting Summary

Objectives

To provide an end-of-year report with project updates and presentation of planned projects for 2020-21.

Attendance

MPIAC Members and Alternates:

Sarah Friesen – Marine Conservation, Member
Scott Benton – Commercial Tourism, Member
Lauren Eckert – Youth research and planning, Member
Jim McIsaac – Commercial Fisheries, Member / Alternate
Kim Olsen – Commercial Fisheries, Member / Alternate
Warren Warttig – Coastal Forestry, Member
Anne Salomon – Marine Academic, Member
Nick Heath – Public Recreation, Member

MaPP:

Sally Cargill – FLNRORD, Advisory Committee Co-Chair
Gord McGee – CCIRA, Advisory Committee Co-Chair
Desiree Lawson – CCIRA, MaPP Implementation Coordinator
Anna Gerrard – CCIRA, Marine Plan Implementation Coordinator
Philip Akins – MaPP, Central Coast Technical Planner

Observers:

Michael Bissonnette – West Coast Environmental Law
Erin Latham – BC Shellfish Growers Association
Christina Mardell, FLNRORD BC Timber Sales

Not in attendance:

Richard Opala – Finfish Aquaculture, Member
Sid Keay – Recreational Fishery Service Providers, Member
Emilie Piry – Recreational Fishery Service Providers, Alternate
Paul Manson – Renewable Energy, Member

Welcome and opening comments

- Sally welcomed the group, reviewed the agenda and discussed the objectives of the meeting.
- Gord gave an update on staffing changes at CCIRA: Gord is turning the MaPP file and co-chair role over to Desiree; Aaron Heidt left CCIRA as Program Director this month; Vicki Sahanatien is the new Program Director (Marine Planning & Conservation); CCIRA has also hired Charlotte Whitney to a new Fisheries Management & Science position.
- Sally introduced new members Sarah Friesen and Scott Benton, and future members Michael Bissonnette (for Marine Conservation) and Erin Latham (for Shellfish Aquaculture).
- MPIAC members briefly introduced themselves (due to time constraints full sector updates were not given). Many members are currently occupied with work related to Covid 19 response and reported significant current and anticipated impacts to their sector. Anne reported that a number of regional science programs (e.g., related to fisheries, food security, climate change) are ramping up, Covid 19 notwithstanding. Lauren is seeking feedback on how to better define and serve her role as youth rep.
- Sally highlighted current vacancies in alternate positions for a number of sectors.

Project updates and discussion

- Updates were provided on priority projects for 2020-21, including EBM monitoring and reporting, Marine Plan amendment (including Marine Zoning), Shellfish Aquaculture (new 3-year Geoduck feasibility research project with North Island College), Communications (signage for visitors to Central Coast Nations' territories), Namu remediation, a recent study to determine future needs, location and feasibility for a new vessel pump-out station in the Central Coast sub-region, and regional and sub-regional work to secure ongoing funding for MaPP generally and the Central Coast Guardian program (focused on EBM monitoring) specifically.

EBM Monitoring and Reporting

- Much of the following discussion focused on the EBM monitoring program and, in particular (1) the current absence of human well-being and governance from the suite of indicators that are being monitored, and (2) the need to assess and report on the linkages between

indicators.

- Governance is a very important component of EBM and there has been concern from some stakeholders that the advisory form of engagement has not engaged them sufficiently in implementation. Governance is not in the suite of regional and sub-regional EBM indicators. The understanding of EBM is that ecological, human well-being (HWB) and governance components are interconnected; we need to be looking at a slice of each to understand what is going on.
- The Central Coast (CC) team confirmed that Governance monitoring *is* a priority for the CC MaPP partners. The team described initial steps that have been taken this year at the regional level to evaluate cultural, socio-economic and governance indicators. For the CC sub-region collaborative governance emerged as a top priority and the CC team is currently developing a proposal to advance this indicator at a regional level. If it is not chosen as a regional priority for 2020-21, however, we will look to advance it at the sub-regional level with input from the committee.
- The MaPP regional team will be bringing their approach to HWB monitoring to stakeholders through the Regional Marine Advisory Committee (RMAC) at a future date.
- Members also asked why, if data already exists and relates to EBM indicators (e.g., seafood, livelihoods), it has not already been collected and reported on.
 - We expect that an upcoming ‘Oceans Economy’ report being developed by the province (expected in the Fall) will produce some useful data to inform some of the socio-economic regional indicators.

Namu remediation

- Progress on the Namu remediation project was reported with the creation of a new heli-pad on site for safe access as well as the collection and safe storage of debris and hazardous liquids.
 - Members noted that Namu is also valued as an important site by the fishing community. The CC team will report back to the committee as further decisions and steps are taken to advance this work.

MaPP Funding

- With respect to developing a case for funding support for MaPP going forward, members encouraged the CC team to include in the narrative the place of human well-being (HWB) as a MaPP objective and key component of EBM monitoring. Potential funding opportunities were highlighted by the marine academic member in regard to integrative research focused on communities, transforming systems, and making concrete changes on the ground.

Partnerships / Collaboration

- It was highlighted that there is a huge opportunity for collaboration amongst the stakeholders and partners to move the monitoring program forward, including work to better understand how the indicators we are / will be monitoring are related (e.g., examine causal relationships), and how this understanding could in turn address the questions /

concerns of various stakeholder groups and partners (also see CC Advice Log).

- Jim reported on current work with Natalie Ban (UVic) to better understand (via surveys) the economic implications of Covid 19 on the coast, such as impacts on fisheries research (not an 'essential service') and knock-on consequences for management; also tourism.
- Sally said that any results Jim can share with the committee would be great.

Closing

- Sally and Gord thanked everyone for attending.
- The following actions were recorded:
 - **MPIAC members and alternates** to provide feedback on the general structure and/or specifics of the 14 circulated EBM indicator reports by July 9th.
 - **Co-leads** to forward committee feedback on EBM indicator monitoring re. human well-being to Regional EBM sub-committee.
 - **Co-leads** to discuss next steps re. EBM reporting and plan follow-up meeting / workshop with interested committee members.